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Letter dated 16 August 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 9 August 2013, addressed to you by Mehmet Dânâ, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Y. Halit Çevik
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

13-43294 (E) 210813

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Annex to the letter dated 16 August 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I am writing in response to the letter dated 18 July 2013, addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative in New York and circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council (A/67/940-S/2013/435), which yet again contains false claims of "infringements of international air traffic regulations and violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey" and "the illegal use of closed ports by Turkish warships". In a manner stepping up its belligerent and provocative rhetoric at a time when the full-fledged negotiations for a comprehensive settlement are expected to resume between the two leaders in October, the said letter of the Greek Cypriot representative also included, for the first time, false allegations as regards the Ercan airport in the North.

In response to such pretentious allegations, I wish once again to reiterate that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the relevant authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot Administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever. It must be stated that assertions of so-called violations of air traffic regulations are unfounded, as the civil aviation authority of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is the sole competent authority to provide air traffic and aeronautical information services within its own national airspace. Similarly, the claim raised in the said letter in relation to Turkish Cypriot ports is also baseless, given that the Greek Cypriot Administration has no jurisdiction or right of say over Northern Cyprus. This constitutes yet another attempt aimed at distorting the facts and the realities of the island.

As noted in our previous letters, such allegations are based on the false and unlawful claim that the sovereignty of the Greek Cypriot Administration extends over the whole island, including the territory, national airspace and territorial waters of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. This pretentious contention by the Greek Cypriot side ignores the present realities on the ground, namely the existence of two independent, self-governing States on the island of Cyprus, each exercising sovereignty and jurisdiction within its respective territory.

As for the false claims regarding the Ercan airport in the North, it should be underlined that the technologically up-to-date Ercan area control centre and airport in North Cyprus have been providing successful and safe air traffic services since the Greek Cypriot refusal in 1977 to provide air traffic services in the northern part of the island in line with its isolation policy imposed on the Turkish Cypriot people.

Since then, all flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus have taken place with the full knowledge and consent of its Civil Aviation Department, over which the Greek Cypriot Administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or control. The legislation of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus on aeronautical safety reflects all International Civil Aviation Organization standards and recommendations, providing safe, regular and swift navigation of aircraft landing at or taking off from Ercan airport, as well as using the airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. All airports in Northern Cyprus are in full conformity with international standards, and necessary investments have been made

to keep up with the developing technology. The number of air traffic controllers has been increased in keeping with the increasing number of flights over the years, and the Ercan area control centre is constantly working in close cooperation with the Ankara area control centre in order to ensure the safe conduct of all flights in the region. In fact, each year more than 19,000 flights take place to and from Ercan airport, serving over 2 million passengers, including Greek Cypriots, and each day approximately 600 aircraft pass through the Ercan advisory airspace. In 2012 alone, 2,777,000 passengers used the Ercan airport. It is predicted that this number will be about 3,000,000 in 2013.

Continuous attempts by the Greek Cypriot side, through often-repeated false statements, to confer legitimacy on the long-defunct "Republic of Cyprus" are futile, since the Turkish Cypriot people will never give in to their unjust demands. What would indeed contribute to a better atmosphere on the island would be for the Greek Cypriot side to stop misappropriating for itself the rights and responsibilities that it does not legally have and to cease its hostile and derogatory acts against the Turkish Cypriot people. Moreover, the Greek Cypriot Administration should once again be reminded that its counterpart is, and has always been, the Turkish Cypriot side, not Turkey, and that its insistent denial of the Turkish Cypriot rights in the north of the island does not bode well for the prospects of finding a lasting settlement of the Cyprus conflict in line with the established United Nations parameters, which envisage a new partnership on the basis of the political equality of the two peoples of the island within the framework of a bizonal, bicommunal federation with two constituent States of equal status.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to call upon the Greek Cypriot side to discontinue its well-known propaganda tactics, which are clearly not conducive to a positive atmosphere on the eve of the resumption, under your good offices mission, of the full-fledged negotiations between the two leaders for a comprehensive settlement in Cyprus. As the Turkish Cypriot side, on the other hand, we are committed to continuing to uphold our constructive and positive stance and encourage our Greek Cypriot neighbours to follow a similar path.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mehmet **Dânâ**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus